

**VA Laboratory Results
Collaborative Terminology Tooling
& Data Management (CTT & DM)
Native Domain Standardization (NDS)
LIM NDS User Manual**



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Revision History

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Orientation

How to Use this Manual

In this manual the following major features of the Laboratory LIM NDS functions are introduced along with a description on how to use them:

- [MASTER LABORATORY TEST file Creation and Update Process Flow](#)
- [Navigating to the LIM NDS Menu](#)
- [LIM NDS MENU Options and the Descriptions](#)
- [Using the Associate Test to NDS MLTF Option](#)
- [Using the Managed Items Edit Option](#)
- [Using the Purge NDS File 60 Audits Option](#)
- [Running the LIM NDS Reports Audit Option](#)



NOTE: This document is available in Microsoft Word (.docx), Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF), and Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) format (see the “HTML Manuals” section.)

HTML Manuals

Why produce an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) edition of this User Manual?

- The HTML versions of the manuals are useful as online documentation support as you use the Laboratory LIM NTRT functions. HTML manuals allow you to instantly jump (link) to specific topics or references online.
- The HTML manuals are “living” documents that are continuously updated with the most current information (unlike paper or printed documentation). They are updated based on new versions, patches, or enhancements to the documentation.
- Presenting manuals in an HTML format on a Web server also gives new opportunities, such as accessing embedded multimedia training material (e.g., movies) directly in the manuals themselves.
- Manuals are accessible over the VA Intranet network.

Intended Audience

The intended audience of this manual is all key stakeholders. The stakeholders include the following:

- Automated Data Processing Application Coordinators (ADPACs)
- Information Resource Management (IRM)—System administrators at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) sites who are responsible for computer management.
- Laboratory Information Managers (LIM)

Disclaimers

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CAUTION: To protect the security of VistA systems, distribution of this software for use on any other computer system by VistA sites is prohibited. All requests for copies of Kernel for *non-VistA* use should be referred to the VistA site's local Office of Information Field Office (OIFO).

Documentation Disclaimer

This manual provides an overall explanation of VA Laboratory LIM NDS system and the functionality; however, no attempt is made to explain how the overall VistA programming system is integrated and maintained. Such methods and procedures are documented elsewhere. We suggest you look at the various VA Internet and Intranet Websites for a general orientation to VistA. For example, visit the Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) VistA Development Intranet website.



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Documentation Conventions

This manual uses several methods to highlight different aspects of the material:

- Various symbols are used throughout the documentation to alert the reader to special information. [Table 1](#) describes each of these symbols.

Table 1. Documentation Symbol Descriptions

Symbol	Description
	NOTE / REF: Used to inform the reader of general information including references to additional reading material.
	CAUTION / RECOMMENDATION / DISCLAIMER: Used to caution the reader to take special notice of critical information.
	TIP: Used to inform the reader of helpful tips or tricks they can use.

- Descriptive text is presented in a proportional font (as represented by this font).
- Conventions for displaying TEST data in this document are as follows:
 - The first three digits (prefix) of any Social Security Numbers (SSN) begin with either “000” or “666”.
 - Patient and user names are formatted as follows:
<Application Name/Abbreviation/Namespace>PATIENT,[N] and *<Application Name/Abbreviation/Namespace>USER,[N]* respectively, where “*<Application Name/Abbreviation/Namespace>*” is defined in the Approved Application Abbreviations document and “*N*” represents the first name as a number spelled out and incremented with each new entry. For example, in VA FileMan (FM) test patient and user names would be documented as follows: FMPATIENT, ONE; FMPATIENT, TWO; FMPATIENT, THREE; etc.
- “Snapshots” of computer online displays (i.e., screen captures/dialogues) and computer source code, if any, are shown in a *non*-proportional font and enclosed within a box.
 - User’s responses to online prompts are **bold** typeface, underlined and highlighted in yellow (e.g., **<Enter>**).
 - Emphasis within a dialogue box is **bold** typeface, underlined and highlighted in blue (e.g. **STANDARD LISTENER: RUNNING**).
 - Some software code reserved/key words are **bold** typeface with alternate color font.
 - References to “**<Enter>**” within these snapshots indicate that the user should press the **Enter** key on the keyboard. Other special keys are represented within **< >** angle brackets. For example, pressing the **PF1** key can be represented as pressing **<PF1>**.
 - Author’s comments are displayed in italics or as “callout” boxes.



NOTE: Callout boxes refer to labels or descriptions usually enclosed within a box, which point to specific areas of a displayed image.

- All uppercase is reserved for the representation of M code, variable names, or the formal name of options, field/file names, and security keys (e.g., DIEXTRACT).



NOTE: Other software code (e.g., Delphi/Pascal and Java) variable names and file/folder names can be written in lower or mixed case (e.g. CamelCase).

Documentation Navigation

This document uses Microsoft® Word's built-in navigation for internal hyperlinks. To add **Back** and **Forward** navigation buttons to your toolbar, do the following:

1. Right-click anywhere on the customizable Toolbar in Word (*not* the Ribbon section).
2. Select **Customize Quick Access Toolbar** from the secondary menu.
3. Select the drop-down arrow in the "Choose commands from:" box.
4. Select **All Commands** from the displayed list.
5. Scroll through the command list in the left column until you see the **Back** command (green circle with arrow pointing left).
6. Select/Highlight the **Back** command and select **Add** to add it to your customized toolbar.
7. Scroll through the command list in the left column until you see the **Forward** command (green circle with arrow pointing right).
8. Select/Highlight the Forward command and select **Add** to add it to your customized toolbar.
9. Select **OK**.

You can now use these **Back** and **Forward** command buttons in your Toolbar to navigate back and forth in your Word document when clicking on hyperlinks within the document.



NOTE: This is a one-time setup and is automatically available in any other Word document once you install it on the Toolbar.

Help at Prompts

VistA software provides online help and commonly used system default prompts. Users are encouraged to enter question marks at any response prompt. At the end of the help display, you are immediately returned to the point from which you started. This is an easy way to learn about any aspect of the software.

Assumptions

This manual is written with the assumption that the reader is familiar with the following:

- VistA computing environment
- Laboratory Information Manager functions

Reference Materials

Readers who wish to learn more about the VA Laboratory NTRT system should consult the following documents:

- [NTRT User Guide](#) (STS SharePoint > VETS Consolidated > VETS > STS_VETS_NTRT User Guide.docx)

VA Laboratory documentation is made available online in Microsoft® Word format and in Adobe® Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). The PDF documents *must* be read using the Adobe® Acrobat Reader, which is freely distributed by Adobe® Systems Incorporated at: <http://www.adobe.com/>

VistA software documentation can be downloaded from the VA Software Document Library (VDL) at: <http://www.va.gov/vdl/>



REF: Laboratory manuals are located on the VDL.

1 LIM NDS Summary

Creation of one National Master Laboratory Tests file (MLTF) with Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes (LOINC) would enable all VHA services and other non-VHA services including private sectors to perform searches, data extractions and report generations, and there would be dependency on only one master file instead of dependency on a number of Lab tables.



CAUTION: Until all of the patches listed in the Related Patches section are installed and the MASTER LABORATORY TEST File (#66.3) (MLTF) content has been deployed to your facility, the LIM will not have the ability to interact with the MLTF, and the following options should not be exercised.

1.1 Related Patches

The related patches for this effort are:

1.1.1 XU*8*665

The XU*8*665 patch is a required Kernel system patch. This patch is used by the STS group when deploying content for the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3)

1.1.2 HDI*1.0*15

The HEALTH DATA & INFORMATICS (HDI) patch HDI*1.0*15 is a required HDI patch. This patch registers the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3) into the HDI system. The HDI system manages the VA Unique Identifier (VUID) numbering, and is invoked during the STS content deployment.

1.1.3 LR*5.2*468

The LR*5.2*46 patch is a Lab application patch. This patch contains Data Definition and routine updates needed for managing the association of LABORATORY TEST file (#60) entries with the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3).

1.1.4 LA*5.2*92

The LA*5.2*92 patch is a Lab Automated Instrument patch. This patch updates Automated Instrument routines that get the LOINC Code for a Test/Specimen.

1.1.5 LR*5.2*481

The LR*5.2*481 is a Lab informational patch. This informational patch details how changing the SEND NTRT MESSAGES field (#.1) in the LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS file (#66.4) is set to 'Y' for yes. This patch should only be exercised once content for the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3) has been deployed to your facility.

1.2 Associating Site/Specimen to MLTF

There are three ways to associate a Site/Specimen to the MLTF.

1. Using the MLTF NUMBER prompt (field (#30) in the site/specimen sub-multiple (#60.01) when creating a new or editing an existing Site/Specimen within FileMan.

This is the current method that LIMs use to create or modify a LABORATORY TEST file (#60) entry.

2. Using the ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF option on the LIM NDS MENU.
3. Using the WAT Walk Associate Test to MLTF option on the LIM NDS MENU.



CAUTION: The MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3), distributed with the patch is not populated. Therefore, the options in the LIM NDS MENU should not be used at this time. In the future, the NTRT team will populate and deploy the MLTF file for all sites.

Prior to the population of the MLTF file, creation of a new test in LABORATORY TEST file (#60) will generate a mailman message to the LIM entering the new site/specimen and members of the facilities G.LMI mail group. Because the functionality to forward that message on to the NTRT team has not yet been turned on, sites should ignore these messages.

When the MLTF has been deployed a message will be listed on the NTRT_NOTIFICATION-L listserv which the LIMs will have subscribed to, (see the last bullet point under section 1.4 NTRT process).

Informational patch LR*5.2*481 provides instructions for activating the NTRT message process.

1.3 Notes on Entering or Editing a Test/Specimen MLTF Entry

When entering or editing a Test/Specimens MLTF entry the system will display one of the following two prompts:

- If the Test/Specimen has not been associated to an MLTF item, or if the MLTF Item name is less than nineteen characters in length, the system will display a double-slash prompt ('//').
- If the Test Specimen has been previously associated to an MLTF Item and the MLTF Item name is greater than 19 characters in length, the system will display the prompt 'Replace:'.

If the Test/Specimen has not been associated to a MLTF Item the LIM may do one of the following functions:

- Enter a '?' to view all active entries in the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3).
- Enter a partial match of the MLTF Item name that they wish to associate.

If the Test/Specimen has previously been associated to a MLTF Item, the LIM may do one of the following functions:

- Enter a ‘?’ to view all active entries in the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3)
- Enter a partial match of the MLTF Item name that they wish to associate.
- Enter the ampersand sign ‘@’ to remove the current Test/Specimen MLTF Item association.

When viewing the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3) Items the system will display the following fields from the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3). These additional fields are displayed to provide the LIM assistance when determining which MLTF Item to use.

- The first 30 characters of the MLTF Items Name (field .01).
- The MLTF Items LOINC CODE (field .04).
- The MLTF Items SPECIMEN (field .08).
- The MLTF Items METHOD (field 1).



NOTE: If the LIM has any questions regarding the association of the Site/Specimen to the MLTF please enter a help desk ticket for the clin 2 team.

1.4 NTRT Process

The items below describe the NTRT process for newly added local facility Site/Specimens that were not associated with the MLTF when a Site/Specimen is created.

- This process will be activated after the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3) content has been deployed, and the sending of NTRT messages is activated.
- NTRT messages will not be sent for Site/Specimens that were created prior to the MLTF content deployment and the sending of NTRT messages being activated.
- An NTRT message will be sent if a site/specimen is not associated to the MLTF during the Enter / Edit of a LABORATORY TEST file (#60) site/specimen.
- A mailman message is sent to the Laboratory NTRT mail group containing the following information:
- The ‘FROM:’ on the NTRT message is the facility mailman address of the LIM who added the Test/Specimen.

```

Site Number - From INSTITUTION file (#4) IEN
Facility Name - From INSTITUTION file (#4) field .01
Facility Number - From INSTITUTION file (#4) IEN
Facility Lab Group Mailman address - From LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS file (#66.4) field
2
Test Name - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) field .01
Test IEN - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Test IEN
Site/Specimen IEN - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN
(#60.01) IEN
Site/Specimen Name - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN
(#60.01) field .01
Spec - from TOPOGRAPHY FIELD (#61) field .01
Time Aspect - From TOPOGRAPHY FIELD (#61) field .0961
Units - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN (#60.01) field 6.
NLT - From WKLD CODE (#64) field 1
Lab Section - From WKLD CODE LAB SECT (#64.21) field 1
Subscript - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) field 4
Data Name - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) field 5

```

```

Data Comment - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) field 13, Data Definition for
comment
Data Type - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) field 13, Data Definition for dataType
Reference Low - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN (#60.01)
field 1.
Reference High - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN (#60.01)
field 2.
Therapeutic Low - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN (#60.01)
field 9.2.
Therapeutic High - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN (#60.01)
field 9.3.
Test Synonyms - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SYNONYM (#60.1) FIELD
.01.
Specimen Interpretation - From LABORATORY TEST file (#60) Sub-File SITE/SPECIMEN
(#60.01) field 5.5 Sub-File INTERPRETATION (#60.07) field .01.

```

- An STS analysts passes this information on the Lab SME group who will decide whether to:
 1. Add a new LAB TEST NAME entry to the MLTF to the national laboratory test standard; or
 2. Suggest a mapping to an existing LAB TEST NAME entry in the MLTF.
- Once the SMEs have made a decision, an STS analyst will reply to the email address that was included in the auto email. The email address is the facilities G.LMI mailman address. The email will describe the Lab SME decision.
- If the SME decision was to suggest a mapping to an existing test, already part of the national standard, this is the end of the process. Otherwise...
- If the SMEs authorize a new lab test, that work goes to an STS analyst to create the new lab test in the STS database. The new lab test goes through several layers of testing, gets SQA approval, and is deployed to all national production sites. This process takes between 1-2 weeks.
- When a deployment is complete, STS sends a message to the NTRT_NOTIFICATION-L listserv.
- The LIM for the facility shall subscribe to this list using the following web site: **REDACTED**. (STS does not own this application; it's a VA service. The LIM will need to create an account using a username and password that does NOT synchronize with the user's VA network account.)

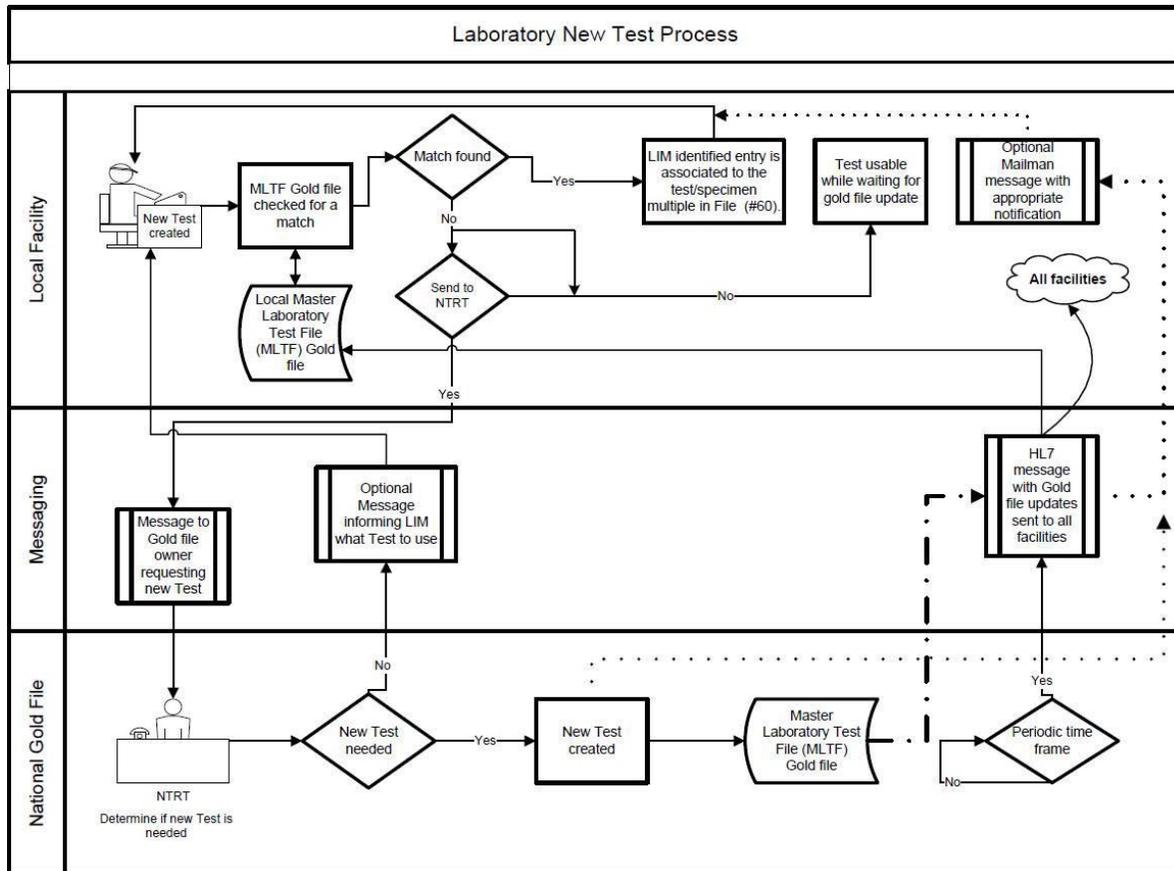
1.5 System Configuration

The System Configuration of the Lab package is not affected by the inclusion of the CTT & DM NDS patch updates.

1.6 MASTER LABORATORY TEST file Creation and Update Process Flow

MASTER LABORATORY TEST file Creation and Update Process is the process for adding a new test to the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file. This is described in the Laboratory New Test Process flow diagram reflecting the day-to-day operations. See [Figure 1. Laboratory New Test Process Flow](#).

Figure 1. Laboratory New Test Process Flow



1.6.1 MASTER LABORATORY TEST File Creation and Update Process

1. Initial association of tests in the Laboratory Test file (#60) to MLTF is performed by the Lab Information Manager (LIM) at each facility. Once the MLTF content has been deployed to the LIMs facility the LIM would use the option **Walk Associate Test to MLTF** to associate Test/Specimens in their LABORATORY TEST file (#60) to the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3).
2. Guidance on when to change the SEND NTRT MESSAGE flag is detailed in informational patch LR*5.2*481.

Once the SEND NTRT MESSAGE is set to YES, the NTRT request will be sent automatically to the NTRT group, if the test/specimen is not associated to the MLTF. The sending of the NTRT message only occurs when Entering/Modifying the Site/Specimen

within FileMan (see item 1 under section 1.2 Associating Site/Specimen to MLTF) or when adding a new atomic test to the LABORATORY TEST file (#60).



NOTE: Prior to setting the SEND NTRT MESSAGE flag to yes the addition of a SITE/SPECIMEN to an existing test will trigger a message to the G.LMI mail group. These messages should be ignored at this point. They will only be important after the SEND NTRT MESSAGE flag has been set to yes, and the MLTF content deployed.

3. Upon entry of a new site/specimen in the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) an NTRT request will be automatically launched if that site/specimen is not associated to the MLTF. The LIM will be able to use the site/specimen in the interim while the NTRT team evaluates whether it is a new site/specimen, or if the item can be associated with an existing MLTF entry.
4. An NTRT Exception flag will be set when a new test/specimen has been submitted to NTRT for processing.
5. The Creation Date of the new test shall be captured and added to the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) when a new test is added.
6. The specimen create date shall be captured and added to the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) subfile 60.01 field 35 when a new specimen is added.
7. As a result of the NTRT request, the new test/specimen will be evaluated by the NTRT group. If it is determined the test/specimen is new, this entry will be added to the MLTF and be deployed to all facilities based on NTRT deployment methodology.
8. If the search result identifies an equivalent test/specimen already exists within the MLTF, the creation request will be rejected, and notification is sent back to the requestor including the specific entry within the MLTF that it is to be associated to.
9. On-demand reports will be made available to VHA Lab Program Office. The VHA Lab Program Office will not require the assistance of the facility to obtain the report.
10. The local site's Lab mail group (LMI) will be utilized for email notifications.

1.7 Getting Started

This section provides a step-by-step procedure to navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU** and describes the menu options.

1.7.1 Navigating to the LIM NDS MENU

This section describes the procedures to access the **LIM NDS MENU**.

This document is based on the assumption that the person using this document has access to the LRLIAISON options menu.

1. At the **Select Lab Liaison Menu prompt**, type: **NDS LIM NDS MENU**, then press **<Enter>**. The LIM NDS MENU displays, see [Figure 2. LIM NDS MENU](#).

Figure 2. LIM NDS MENU

LIM NDS MENU	
ATM	Associate Test to NDS MLTF
WAT	Walk Associate Test to MLTF
MIE	Managed Items Edit
PNA	Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV	Print Specimens Without VUIDS
PTI	Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
LME	Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG	Purge NDS File 60 Audits

1.7.2 LIM NDS MENU Options and the Descriptions

[Table 2. LIM NDS MENU Options and Descriptions](#) list the LIM NDS MENU option name, synonym, and a brief description of the option's functions.



TIP: You can enter the LIM NDS MENU synonym as listed in [Table 2. LIM NDS MENU Options and Descriptions](#) to navigate to the menu option.

Table 2. LIM NDS MENU Options and Descriptions

Menu Option Name	Synonym	Description
Associate Test to NDS MLTF	ATM	Enter a Specimen name that is associated to the test that you wish to associate to the MLTF.
Walk Associate Test to MLTF	WAT	This option allows you to associate lab test/specimens to the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file.
Managed Items Edit	MIE	This option is used for updating the 66.4 managed items file. It contains the NTRT control items. For example, mail groups and test types. This file is initially populated at the patch load with certain defaults assigned.

Menu Option Name	Synonym	Description
Print NDS Audits in File 60	PNA	Report. The Print NDS Audits in File 60 report option prints edits to file 60 items that relate to the NDS process.
Print Specimens Without VUIDS	PSV	Report that displays an extract of tests/specimens to identify those items that do not have a MLTF VUID associated.
Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS	PTI	Report that displays an extract of tests/specimens that's associated VUID is inactive.
Lab to MLTF Extract	LME	Report. This option is a download extract that enables you to capture what prints on the screen. You can capture the same data as the lab server side MISSING MLTF export request.
Purge NDS File 60 Audits	PRG	NTRT PURGE FILE 60 AUDITS. The purge is the trimming mechanism to control the growth of 60 file. The minimum is 220 days (retain 220 days of tracked edits).

2 Using the Software

This section describes the procedures for using the LIM NDS MENU options.

2.1 Laboratory Information Manager (LIM) Native Domain Standardization (NDS) Procedures

- ATM - Associating a Lab Test to the NDS MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (MLTF)
- WAT - Using the Walk Associate Test to MLTF
- MIE - Using the Managed Items Edit
- PNA - Using the Edit Purge FILE 60 Audits Option
- Running Reports from the LIM NDS MENU

2.1.1 Using the Associate Test to NDS MLTF Option (ATM)

1. Type **ATM** for the **Associate Test to NDS MLTF (ATM) Menu Option**, then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 3. Associate Test to NDS MLTF Menu Option](#).



NOTE: The LIM would use this option when associating or editing an existing Test/Specimen with a MLTF item. Initial association of existing tests in the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) to the MLTF is done by the LIM using the option **Walk Associate Test to the MLTF**.

Figure 3. Associate Test to NDS MLTF Menu Option

```
LIM NDS MENU
ATM  Associate Test to NDS MLTF <Enter>
WAT  Walk Associate Test to MLTF
MIE  Managed Items Edit
PNA  Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV  Print Specimens Without VUIDS
LME  Lab to MLTF Extract
PTI  Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
PRG  Purge NDS File 60 Audits
```

2. At the **Select LABORATORY TEST NAME** prompt: type the **Laboratory Test Name**, then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 4. ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF](#).

Figure 4. ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF

```
Select LIM NDS MENU <TEST ACCOUNT> Option: ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF
Select LABORATORY TEST NAME: GLU <Enter>
1  GLU,BUN,CREAT,LYTES
2  GLU,CHOL,TRIG
3  GLUCAGON (q,F)
4  GLUCOSE
5  GLUCOSE DTG TEST
Press <RETURN> to see more, '^' to exit this list, OR
CHOOSE 1-5:1 <Enter>
```

3. Choose 1-5 to select the Laboratory Test Name, and then press **<Enter>**.
 - If the Test Type is 'N' then a message displays and you are returned to the 'LABORATORY TEST' prompt.
 - If the Test Subscript is 'WK', 'BB', 'AU', or 'EM' then a message displays and you are returned to the 'LABORATORY TEST' prompt.
 - If the Tests LOCATION, (Data Name) is not populated a message displays and return to the 'LABORATORY TEST' prompt.
4. At the **Select SITE/SPECIMEN** prompt: Enter a specimen name to associate to the MLTF.
5. At the **MLTF NUMBER** prompt: Enter the MLTF test name you wish to associate the test/specimen.



NOTE: If the Test/Specimen has been previously associated to a MLTF entry the 'Select MASTER LABORATORY TEST:' the entry may have "Replace" instead of "/". See Section 1.3 Note on entering or editing a Test/Specimens MLTF entry for guidance.

6. If the prompt has 'Replace': To select a different MLTF item: Enter the first letter of the displayed MLTF name followed by 3 dots (...) at the "With" prompt enter a partial match to the new MLTF name to see the list of names OR enter a '?' to be prompted for the entire MLTF list. To leave as is: press **<Enter>**.
7. To delete the linkage, enter the @ ("at" sign).
8. If a '?' is entered to view the MLTFs on file, the listing displays: **MLTF Test Name, MLTF Specimen value, MLTF Method**. This is to assist you with selecting the MLTF that best suits the local Test/Specimen.

When a MLTF has been selected, the MLTFs LOINC Code Specimen will be compared to the local Test/Specimen's value. If they are not the same, a message displays to that effect: "The MLTF LOINC code that you have selected does not have the same specimen that you chose to test/specimen." You are prompted: "Are you sure you want to do this?" If

you answer **YES**, the association is made. If you answer **NO**, the association is not be made, and you are returned to the MLTF NUMBER prompt.

Figure 5. Example Associate Test to NDS MLTF Option (ATM)

```
Select LIM NDS MENU <TEST ACCOUNT> Option: ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF
LABORATORY TEST: GLUCOSE
1 GLUCOSE
2 GLUCOSE TOLERANCE (BLOOD)
3 GLUCOSE, CSF
4 GLUCOSE, BUN, CREAT, LYTES  GLU, BUN, CREAT, LYTES
CHOOSE 1-4: 1 GLUCOSE
SPECIMEN for GLUCOSE: SERUM
Select MASTER LABORATORY TEST: GLUCOSE STRIP MASS CONC URINE
Replace ... With GLUCOSE Replace
GLUCOSE
1 GLUCOSE 2345-7 Ser/Plas
2 GLUCOSE STRIP MASS CONC URINE 5792-7 Urine Test strip
3 GLUCOSE STRIP QL UR  GLUCOSE STRIP QL URINE 25428-4 Urine T
est strip
4 GLUCOSE, BODY FLUID 14747-0 Plr fld
CHOOSE 1-4: 1 GLUCOSE 2345-7 Ser/Plas
Test/Specimen: GLUCOSE / SERUM
Saved With MLTF: GLUCOSE
SPECIMEN for GLUCOSE:
LABORATORY TEST:
```

2.1.2 Using the Walk Associate Test to MLTF Option (WAT)

1. Type **WAT** for the **Walk Associate Test to MLTF (WAT) Menu Option**, then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 6. WAT – Walk Associate Test to MLTF Menu Option](#).

The LIM would use this option once the MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (66.3) content has been deployed to their facility.

This option is used for the initial association of existing Site/Specimens in the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) to the MLTF.

Figure 6. WAT – Walk Associate Test to MLTF Menu Option

```
ATM   Associate Test to NDS MLTF
WAT   Walk Associate Test to MLTF <Enter>
MIE   Managed Items Edit
PNA   Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV   Print Specimens Without VUIDS
PTI   Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
LME   Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG   Purge NDS File 60 Audits
```

The **WAT** option allows the LIM to associate lab test/specimens to the MLTF, as shown in [Figure 7. Example Walk Associate Test to MLTF](#) This option goes through the LABORATORY TEST file (#60) one time, starting with the newest LABORATORY TEST file (#60) entry. Once it reaches the oldest test it will be flagged as done. This option is re-startable and will pick up where the LIM left off. The LIM has the ability to skip a test.

The routine picks up the next oldest test, displays the test name, and then displays the specimens for that test.

- If the test subscript is **WK**, then it skips it.
 - If the test subscript is **BB**, then it skips it.
 - If the test subscript is **AU**, then it skips it.
 - If the test subscript is **EM**, then it skips it.
 - If the test type is **N**, then it skips it.
 - If the test does not have a **Data Name**, then it skips it.
 - If the test does not have any specimens a message with the test name is displayed. The option then goes to the next test.
2. At the **MASTER LABORATORY TEST FILE** prompt: Enter the MLTF test name you wish to associate the test/specimen.

If a '?' is entered to view the MLTFs on file the listing display will be:

MLTF Test Name, MLTF Specimen value, MLTF Method

This is to assist the LIM in selecting the MLTF that best suits the local Test/Specimen.

When a MLTF has been selected the MLTFs LOINC Code Specimen will be compared to the local Test/Specimen's Specimen value. If they are not the same a message will display to that effect. The MLTF LOINC code that you have selected does not have the same specimen that you chose to test/specimen. You will be prompted "**Are you sure you want to do this?**" If the LIM answers YES, the association will be made. If the LIM answers NO, the association will not be made and return to the **MASTER LABORATORY TEST FILE** prompt.

Figure 7. Example Walk Associate Test to MLTF

```
Select LIM NDS MENU <TEST ACCOUNT> Option: WALK Associate Test to MLTF
TEST: PHOSPHORUS
SPECIMEN(s)
    Select one of the following:
        1          PLASMA [73]
Enter The Number For The Specimen to Associate With The MLTF: 1  PLASMA [73]
Select MASTER LABORATORY TEST: PH
    1  PH STRIP UR  PH STRIP URINE      5803-2      Urine      Test strip
    2  PHOSPHATE MASS CONC SERUM/PLASMA      2777-1      Ser/Plas
CHOOSE 1-2: 2  PHOSPHATE MASS CONC SERUM/PLASMA      2777-1      Ser/Plas
PLASMA: Saved With MLTF
TEST: DRVVT SCREEN (q)
SPECIMEN(s)
    Select one of the following:
        1          PLASMA [73]
Enter The Number For The Specimen to Associate With The MLTF:  << press Enter >>
Do You Wish to go to The Next Test?? YES//
TEST: HEXAGONAL PHASE NEUTRAL (q)
SPECIMEN(s)
    Select one of the following:
        1          PLASMA [73]
Enter The Number For The Specimen to Associate With The MLTF:
```

2.1.3 Using the Managed Items Edit Option (MIE)

The **Managed Items Edit Option (MIE)** is used for updating the 66.4 Managed Items file. It contains the NTRT Control items, for example, mail groups and test types. This file is initially populated at the patch load with certain default values assigned, as shown in [Figure 8. MIE - Managed Items Edit Default Values](#).

Figure 8. MIE - Managed Items Edit Default Values

```
The LAB MANAGED ITEMS file (#66.4) is seeded
LR*5.2*468.

The default values are:

INSTITUTION POINTER: (local Facility Institu
patch)

NTRT SEND METHOD: MAILMAN

AUTO REMINDERS PARAMETER: 30

AUDIT PURGE DAYS: 220

ISAAC ACTIVE: NO

LAB IEN: This is populated at load time w

SUBSCRIPT FOR NTRT: CH

LAST AUTO TEST ID: will be populated when c

SEND NTRT MESSAGES: NO This would be changed

DEFAULT NTRT MAIL GROUP: G.LABORATORY NTRT@F

DEFAULT SITE LAB MAIL GROUP: G.LMI@ DOMAIN

ISAAC WEB ADDRESS: vaauscttweb80.aac.va.gov

ISAAC PORT NUMBER: 8080

ISAAC SCHEMA NAME: MASTER-NTRT-RECEIVE_1.XSD

ISAAC SCHEMA PATH: no entry
```

1. Select the Managed Items Edit (MIE) Menu option, and then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 9. MIE - Managed Items Edit Menu Option](#).

Figure 9. MIE - Managed Items Edit Menu Option

```
LIM NDS MENU

ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF

WAT Walk Associate Test to MLTF

MIE Managed Items Edit <Enter>

PNA Print NDS Audits in File 60

PSV Print Specimens Without VUIDS

PTI Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
```

```
LME    Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG    Purge NDS File 60 Audits
```

2. At the **Select LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS INSTITUTION POINTER** prompt, enter the site and then press **<Enter>**, as shown in
3. [Figure 10. Example of Managed Items](#) Edit Process.
4. At the **NTRT SEND METHOD** prompt press **<Enter>** to select the default option: MAILMAN.
5. At the **AUTO REMINDERS PARAMETER** prompt press **<Enter>** to select the default number **30**.
6. At the **AUDIT PURGE DAYS** prompt, press **<Enter>** to select the default number: **225**.
7. At the **ISAAC Active** prompt, press **<Enter>** to select the default option: **No**
8. At the **SUBSCRIPT FOR NTRT: CH** prompt, select the number **1-8**, then press **<Enter>**.
9. **NOTE: The Subscript For NTRT should only be changed with written guidance from the VHA LAB PROGRAM OFFICE.**
10. Select **<Enter>** to select the defaults for the **ISAAC WEB ADDRESS, ISAAC Port Number, ISAAC NTRT PATH, ISAAC SCHEMA NAME, and ISAAC SCHEMA PATH.**

Figure 10. Example of Managed Items Edit Process

```
Select LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS INSTITUTION POINTER: ?
Answer with LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS INSTITUTION POINTER:
BEDFORD VAMC
Select LAB MLTF MANAGED ITEMS INSTITUTION POINTER: Bedford VAMC MA VAMC 518
INSTITUTION POINTER: BEDFORD VAMC// This is the Institution for the clients
Facility.
NTRT SEND METHOD: MAILMAN// This is the method that messages are sent for NTRT
validation.
Enter Method That New Tests are Sent to NTRT for Validation. Currently
only MAILMAN is supported.
Choose from:
M MAILMAN
X XML
N NONE DO NOT SEND
NTRT SEND METHOD: MAILMAN//
AUTO REMINDERS PARAMETER: 30//
AUDIT PURGE DAYS: 220// ?
```

ISAAC ACTIVE: NO// ?

SUBSCRIPT FOR NTRT: CH // ? You can choose which test subscripts to allow for sending to NTRT.

NOTE: The Subscript For NTRT should only be changed with written guidance from the VHA LAB PROGRAM OFFICE.

Enter the number that corresponds to the subscript to be sent to NTRT

Choose from:

1 CH

2 MI

4 SP

5 CY

7 CH AND MI

8 ALL SUBSCRIPTS

SUBSCRIPT FOR NTRT: CH//

LAST AUTO TEST ID: 5624// ? This is the last LABORATORY TEST file (#60) IEN that the client has checked for MLTF

LAST AUTO TEST ID: 5624//

SEND NTRT MESSAGES: NO// Allows the Facility to control if new laboratory tests requests are sent to NTRT

DEFAULT NTRT MAIL GROUP: G.LABORATORY NTRT@FORUM.VA.GOV The NTRT forum group that NTRT requests are sent to

DEFAULT SITE LAB MAIL GROUP: G.LMI@BEDFORD.MED.VA.GOV The facility lab mail group that NTRT will respond to.

ISAAC WEB ADDRESS: vaauscttweb80.aac.va.gov Enter the ISACC Web Address in form 'WWW.ISAAC.COM'. The Address may be up to 100 characters in length.

ISAAC PORT NUMBER: 8080 Enter the port number for the ISAAC system NTRT process.

ISAAC NTRT PATH: isaac-rest~rest~1~request~termRequest Enter the ISAAC system path for the NTRT process.

ISAAC SCHEMA NAME: MASTER-NTRT-RECEIVE_1.XSD Enter the ISAAC schema name for processing ISAAC XML's.

ISAAC SCHEMA PATH:

Enter the path for the ISAAC SCHEMA NAME

2.1.4 Running the LIM NDS Reports

Perform the following procedures in this section to access and run the LIM NDS Reports.

The following reports are available on the **LIM NDS MENU**:

- PNA Print NDS Audits in File 60
- PSV Print Specimens Without VUIDS
- PTI Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
- LME Lab to MLTF Extract

Figure 11. LIM NDS Reports

```
LIM NDS MENU
ATM Associate Test to NDS MLTF
WAT Walk Associate Test to MLTF
MIE Managed Items Edit
PNA Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV Print Specimens Without VUIDS
PTI Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
LME Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG LIM NTRT PURGE FILE 60 Audits
```

Perform the following procedure to access the **LIM NTRT Reports**.

1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
2. Type **PNA** Print NDS Audits in File 60, then press **<Enter>** to view edits to File 60 items that relate to the NTRT process.
3. Type **PSV** Print Specimens Without VUIDS, then press **<Enter>** to view Specimens without VUIDS.
4. Type **PTI** Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS, then press **<Enter>** to view Specimens that have VUIDS that are inactive.
5. Type **LME** Lab to MLTF Extract, then press **<Enter>** to capture what is on the screen.

2.1.5 Running the Lab to MLTF Extract Report

The Lab to MLTF Extract Report is a download extract, which means that you can capture what is on the screen. This report allows you to capture the same data as the Lab server side *MISSING MLTF Export Request*, as shown in [Figure 12. Example Lab to MLTF Extract Report](#).

Perform the following procedure to run the Lab to MLTF Extract Report.

1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
2. Type **LME** to select the **Lab to MLTF Extract Report**, and then press **<Enter>**.
3. Type **Yes** to capture the screen, and then press **<Enter>**.

Figure 12. Example Lab to MLTF Extract Report

```
Ready to Capture? Yes// <Enter>
A partial capture of the header section
...EXCUSE ME, HOLD ON...
Report Generated.....: Apr 11, 2016@12:03:38 at BEDFORD VAMC
Report requested.....: MISSING MLTF
LOINC version.....: 2.14
Vista File version.....:
Extract version.....: 1.1
Total number of records: 1596
Total number of tests..: 1534
Tests with MLTF'S.....: 0
Tests with NLT code....: 1321
Antimicrobials.....: 62
Legend:
Station #-60 ien-Spec ien-Index|Test Name|Spec|Time Aspect|Units|MLTF|NLT #|Batt
ery Code|Battery Description|Lab Section|Subscript|Comment|Data Type|Reference l
ow|Reference high|Therapeutic low|Therapeutic high|
Use Ref Lab|Site Comment|Test Synonyms|Test Type|MLTF Name|MLTF Alt Name|Submitt
ed to NTRT|Specimen Create Date| MISSING SPECIMENS|Extract Ver|
```

2.1.6 Running the Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report

The **Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report** option prints edits to File 60 items that relate to the NTRT process, as shown in [Figure 13. Example Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report.](#)

The following items are being tracked in the **Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report**:

- 'M' FOR MLTF VUID
 - 'C' FOR TEST CREATION DATE
 - 'T' FOR TEST INACTIVE DATE
 - 'R' FOR SPECIMEN INACTIVE DATE
 - 'E' FOR NTRT EXCEPTION FLAG
 - 'Y' FOR TEST TYPE
 - 'S' FOR SPECIMEN CREATION DATE
1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
 2. Type PNA to select the Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report.
 3. At the **Enter From Date** prompt: Type the From Date, then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 13. Example Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report.](#)
 4. At the Enter To Date prompt: Type the To Date, then press **<Enter>**.
 5. At the Output device prompt: Type the Output Device, then press **<Enter>**.

Figure 13. Example Print NDS Audits in File 60 Report

```

Print NDS Audits in File 60 items Report
Enter From Date: (1 _____) <Enter>
Enter To Date: (3/1/2016 - 4/11/2016) : T (APR 11, 2016) <Enter>
Output device: _____ <Enter>

```

Lab NTRT File 60 Audited items Report				
Date Printed: Apr 11, 2016				
Date	Edit Field	User	Old Value	New Value
TEST: GLUCOSE DTG TEST				
2016/4/9@14:11	CREATION DATE	JOHNSON, DON		09 Apr 2016
2016/4/9@14:16	TEST TYPE	JOHNSON, DON		B
TEST: IGG				
Specimen: SERUM				
2016/3/2@17:25	SPEC INACT DT	JOHNSON, DON	26 Feb 2016	27 Feb 2016
Specimen: SERUM				
2016/3/4@05:42	SPEC INACT DT	POSTMASTER	27 Feb 2016	
TEST: MEM				

```

2016/3/15@15:51 TEST TYPE      JOHNSON,DON  B          B
TEST: TEST DON
2016/4/9@10:46  TEST TYPE      JOHNSON,DON  N          B
2016/4/9@10:46  CREATION DATE JOHNSON,DON
TEST: TEST DTG IGG
2016/4/9@13:46  CREATION DATE JOHNSON,DON          09 Apr 2016
2016/4/9@13:55  TEST TYPE      JOHNSON,DON  B
Enter RETURN to continue or '^' to exit:

```

2.1.7 Running the Print Specimens Without VUIDS Report

The LIM NTRT Specimen without VUID Report option allows you to view NTRT Specimens without VUIDs, as shown in [Figure 14. Example Print Specimens Without VUIDS.](#)

1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
2. Type PSV to select the Print Specimens Without VUIDS Report, then press **<Enter>**.
3. Enter the **Output device**, and then press **<Enter>**, as shown in Figure 14. Example Print Specimens Without VUIDS.

Figure 14. Example Print Specimens Without VUIDS

```

Print Specimens Without VUIDS Report
Output device: HOME// 0 TELNET <Enter>
Lab NDS File 60 Tests/Specimens Without MLTF Vuids Report
Date Printed: Mar 04, 2016 Page 82
Specimen Create DT Inactive Exception
-----
Hb Create Date: Inactive: N
ARTERIAL BLOOD N N
Heptacarboxyporphyrins Create Date: Inactive: N
PLASMA N N
Hexacarboxyporphyrins Create Date: Inactive: N
PLASMA N N
IBUPROFEN (q) Create Date: Inactive: N
SERUM N N
IEP-THRU 10/99 Create Date: Inactive: N
SERUM N N
IGA Create Date: Inactive: N
SERUM N N
IGA(thru 7/12/02) Create Date: Inactive: N
SERUM N N
IGG Create Date: 01 Feb 2016 Inactive: N
SERUM 2016/2/2 Y Y
Enter RETURN to continue or '^' to exit:

```

2.1.8 Using the Purge NDS File 60 Audits Option

Purge NDS File 60 Audits option is the trimming mechanism to control the growth of that file section. The minimum is 220 days (retain 220 days of tracked edits). This process when invoked starts a background Taskman process. See [Figure 15. LIM NDS Purge File 60 Audits Option](#).

1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
2. Type **PRG** to initiate the purge option, and then press **<Enter>**.

Figure 15. LIM NDS Purge File 60 Audits Option

```
LIM NDS MENU
ATM   Associate Test to NDS MLTF
WAT   Walk Associate Test to MLTF
MIE   Managed Items Edit
PNA   Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV   Print Specimens Without VUIDS
PTI   Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS
LME   Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG   LIM NTRT PURGE FILE 60 Audits <Enter>
```

3. The option is initiated and the following message: **Request Queued**, # displays, as shown in [Figure 16. Example Purge NDS File 60 Audits Option](#).

Figure 16. Example Purge NDS File 60 Audits Option

```
Purge NDS File 60 Audits
Request Queued, #258477
```

2.1.9 Running the Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS Report

The **Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS report** option prints Test/Specimens that have been associated to the MLTF but whose MLTF VUID is now inactive.

1. Navigate to the **LIM NDS MENU**.
2. Type **PTI** to select the Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS Report, and then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 17. PTI - Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS Option](#).

Figure 17. PTI - Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS Option

```
LIM NDS MENU
ATM   Associate Test to NDS MLTF
WAT   Walk Associate Test to MLTF
MIE   Managed Items Edit
PNA   Print NDS Audits in File 60
PSV   Print Specimens Without VUIDS
PTI   Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS <Enter>
LME   Lab to MLTF Extract
PRG   LIM NTRT PURGE FILE 60 Audits
```

3. Enter the **Output device**, and then press **<Enter>**, as shown in [Figure 18. Example Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS](#).

Figure 18. Example Print Specimens with Inactive VUIDS

```
Print Specimens Without VUIDS Report
Output device: HOME// 0 TELNET <Enter>

Lab NDS File 60 Tests/Specimens With Inactive MLTF Vuids Report
Date Printed: Jun 09, 2016 Page 1

Specimen MLTF
-----
IGG [5581]
BLOOD [70] SODIUM [3]

--- Report Finished ---
```

2.2 User Access Levels

Not Applicable.

2.3 Continuity of Operation

Not Applicable.

2.4 Changing User ID and Password

Not applicable.

2.5 Exit System

Not applicable.

2.6 Caveats and Exceptions

Not applicable.

2.7 Troubleshooting

Not applicable.

2.7.1 Special Instructions for Error Correction

Not applicable.

Glossary

Term	Definition
.001 FIELD	A field containing the internal entry number of the record.
.01 FIELD	The one field that <i>must</i> be present for every file and file entry. It is also called the NAME field. At a file's creation the .01 field is given the label NAME. This label can be changed.
ABBREVIATED RESPONSE	This feature allows you to enter data by typing only the first few characters for the desired response. This feature will <i>not</i> work unless the information is already stored in the computer.
ACCESS CODES	In VA FileMan, a string of codes that determines your security access to files, fields, and templates. In Kernel, you enter an Access Code to identify yourself during sign on.
ALERTS	Brief online notices that are issued to users as they complete a cycle through the menu system. Alerts are designed to provide interactive notification of pending computing activities, such as the need to reorder supplies or review a patient's clinical test results. Along with the alert message is an indication that the View Alerts common option should be chosen to take further action.
ALTERNATE EDITOR	One of the text editors available for use from VA FileMan. Editors available vary from site to site. They are entries in the ALTERNATE EDITOR file (#1.2).
ANSI	American National Standards Institute.
ANSI M	The M (formerly known as MUMPS) programming language is a standard recognized by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI). M stands for Massachusetts Utility Multi-programming System.
AUDIT TRAIL	The record or log of an ongoing audit.
AUDITING	The monitoring and recording of computer use.
BACKWARD POINTER	A pointer to your current file from another file; used in the extended pointer syntax.
BOOLEAN EXPRESSION	A logical comparison between values yielding a true or false result. In M, zero means false and non-zero (often one) means true.
CALLABLE ENTRY POINT	An authorized developer call that can be used in any VistA application package. The DBA maintains the list of DBIC-approved entry points.
CANONIC NUMBER	A number with no leading zeroes and no trailing zeroes after a decimal point.
CAPTION	In ScreenMan, a label displayed on the screen. Captions often identify fields that are to be edited.
CHECKSUM	The result of a mathematical computation involving the individual characters of a routine or file.
COMMAND AREA	In ScreenMan, the bottom portion of the screen used to display help information and to accept user commands.

Term	Definition
COMMON MENU	The Common menu consists of options that are available to all users. Entering two question marks at the menu select prompt displays any secondary menu options available to the signed-on user, along with the common options available to all users.
CONTROLLED SUBSCRIPTION INTEGRATION AGREEMENT	This applies where the IA describes attributes/functions that <i>must</i> be controlled in their use. The decision to restrict the IA is based on the maturity of the custodian package. Typically, these IAs are created by the requesting package based on their independent examination of the custodian package's features. For the IA to be approved the custodian grants permission to other VistA packages to use the attributes/functions of the IA; permission is granted on a one-by-one basis where each is based on a solicitation by the requesting package. An example is the extension of permission to allow a package (e.g., Spinal Cord Dysfunction) to define and update a component that is supported within the Health Summary package file structures.
CURSOR	On your display terminal, the line or rectangle identifying where your next input is placed on the screen.
DATA	A representation of facts, concepts, or instructions in a formalized manner for communication, interpretation, or processing by humans or by automatic means. The information you enter for the computer to store and retrieve. Characters that are stored in the computer system as the values of local or global variables. VA FileMan fields hold data values for file entries.
DATA ATTRIBUTE	A characteristic unit of data such as length, value, or method of representation. VA FileMan field definitions specify data attributes.
DATA DICTIONARY	A record of a file's structure, its elements (fields and their attributes), and relationships to other files. Often abbreviated as DD.
DATA DICTIONARY ACCESS	A user's authorization to write/update/edit the data definition for a computer file. Also known as DD Access.
DATA INTEGRITY	This term refers to the condition of patient records in terms of completeness and correctness. It also refers to the process in which a particular patient's data is synchronized at all the sites in which that patient receives care.
DATA TYPE	The kind of data stored in a field. For example, the following are VA FileMan DATA TYPE field values: NUMERIC COMPUTED WORD-PROCESSING
DATABASE	An organized collection of data spanning many files. Often, all the files on a system constitute that system's database.
DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DBMS)	A collection of software that handles the storage, retrieval, and updating of records in a database. A Database Management System (DBMS) controls redundancy of records and provides the security, integrity, and data independence of a database.
DATABASE, NATIONAL	A database that contains data collected or entered for all VHA sites.
DBA	Database Administrator, oversees software development with respect to VistA Standards and Conventions (SAC) such as namespacing. Also, this term refers to the Database Administration function and staff.

Term	Definition
DBIA	Database Integration Agreement (see Integration Agreements [IA]).
DECENTRALIZED HOSPITAL COMPUTER PROGRAM (DHCP)	See VISTA.
DEFAULT	A computer-provided response to a question or prompt. The default might be a value pre-existing in a file. Often, you can change a default.
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	The Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly known as the Veterans Administration.)
DEVICE	Peripheral connected to the host computer, such as a printer, terminal, disk drive, modem, and other types of hardware and equipment associated with a computer. The host files of underlying operating systems may be treated like devices in that they may be written to (e.g., for spooling).
DEVICE PROMPT	A Kernel prompt at which you identify where to send your output.
DHCP	Decentralized Hospital Computer Program (now known as Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture [VistA]). VistA software, developed by VA, is used to support clinical and administrative functions at VA Medical Centers nationwide. It is written in M and, via the Kernel, runs on all major M implementations regardless of vendor. VistA is composed of packages that undergo a verification process to ensure conformity with namespacing and other VistA standards and conventions.
DICTIONARY	Database of specifications of data and information processing resources. VA FileMan's database of data dictionaries is stored in the FILE of files (#1).
DIRECT MODE UTILITY	A developer call that is made when working in direct programmer mode. A direct mode utility is entered at the MUMPS prompt (e.g.,>D ^XUP). Calls that are documented as direct mode utilities <i>cannot</i> be used in application software code.
DOMAIN	A site for sending and receiving mail.
DOUBLE QUOTES (“”)	Symbol used in front of a Common option's menu text or synonym to select it from the Common menu. For example, the five-character string “TBOX” selects the User's Toolbox Common option.
EDIT WINDOW	In ScreenMan, the area in which you enter or edit data. It is highlighted with either reverse video or an underline. In Screen Editor, the area in which you enter and edit text; the area between the status bar and the ruler.
ENTRY	A record in a file. “Entry” and “record” are used interchangeably.
ERROR TRAP	A mechanism to capture system errors and record facts about the computing context such as the local symbol table, last global reference, and routine in use. Operating systems provide tools such as the %ER utility. The Kernel provides a generic error trapping mechanism with use of the ^%ZTER global and ^XTER* routines. Errors can be trapped and, when possible, the user is returned to the menu system.
EXTENDED POINTERS	A means to reference fields in files other than your current file.
FACILITY	Geographic location at which VA business is performed.

Term	Definition
FIELD	In an entry, a specified area used to hold values. The specifications of each VA FileMan field are documented in the file's data dictionary.
FIELD NUMBER	The unique number used to identify a field in a file. A field can be referenced by “#” followed by the field number.
FILE	A set of related records (or entries) treated as a unit.
FILE MANAGER (VA FILEMAN)	VistA's Database Management System (DBMS). The central component of Kernel that defines the way standard VistA files are structured and manipulated.
FORM	In ScreenMan, a group of one or more pages that comprise a complete transaction. Comparable to an INPUT template.
FORUM	The central E-mail system within VistA. Developers use FORUM to communicate at a national level about programming and other issues. FORUM is located at the OI Field Office—Washington, DC (162-2).
FREE TEXT	A DATA TYPE field value that can contain any printable characters.
FULL-SCREEN EDITING	The ability to enter data in various locations on the two-dimensional computer display. Compare to scrolling mode.
GLOBAL VARIABLE	Variable that is stored on disk (M usage).
HELP PROMPT	The brief help that is available at the field level when entering one or more question marks.
HISTOGRAM	A type of bar graph that indicates frequency of occurrence of particular values.
IDENTIFIER	In VA FileMan, a field that is defined to aid in identifying an entry in conjunction with the NAME field.
INDEX	An ordered list used to speed retrieval of entries from a file based on a value in some field or fields. The term “simple index” refers to an index that stores the data for a single field; the term “compound index” refers to an index that stores the data for more than one field. Indexes are created and maintained via cross-references.
INPUT TEMPLATE	A pre-defined list of fields that together comprise an editing session.
INTEGRATION AGREEMENTS (IA)	Integration Agreements define agreements between two or more VistA software applications to allow access to one development domain by another. VistA software developers are allowed to use internal entry points (APIs) or other software-specific features that are <i>not</i> available to the general programming public. Any software developed for use in the VistA environment is required to adhere to this standard; as such, it applies to vendor products developed within the boundaries of DBA assigned development domains (e.g., MUMPS AudioFax). An IA defines the attributes and functions that specify access. The DBA maintains and records all IAs in the Integration Agreement database on FORUM. Content can be viewed using the DBA menu or the Health Systems Design & Development's Web page.
INTERNAL ENTRY NUMBER	The number used to identify an entry within a file. Every record has a unique internal entry number. Often abbreviated as IEN.
INTERNAL ENTRY NUMBER (IEN)	The number used to identify an entry within a file. Every record has a unique internal entry number.
IRM	Information Resource Management. A service at VA medical centers responsible for computer management and system security.

Term	Definition
ISO	Information Security Officer.
KERNEL	A VISTA software package that functions as an intermediary between the host operating system and VISTA application packages. Kernel includes installation, menu, security, and device services.
KEY	A group of fields that, taken collectively, uniquely identifies a record in a file or subfile. All fields in a key <i>must</i> have values. The term “simple key” refers to keys that are composed of only one field; the term “compound key” refers to keys that are composed of more than one field. Keys are stored in the KEY file (#.31)
LAN	Local Area Network.
LAYGO	A user’s authorization to create a new entry when editing a computer file. An acronym for Learn As You Go .
LIM	Laboratory Information Manager
LINE EDITOR	The VA FileMan editor that lets you input and change text on a line-by-line basis. The Line Editor works in scrolling mode. See Screen Editor.
LOINC	Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes.
LOOKUP	To find an entry in a file using a value for one of its fields.
M (ANSI STANDARD)	Massachusetts General Hospital Utility Multi-Programming System (M, formerly named MUMPS) is a software package, which consists of a high level programming language and a built-in database.
MAILMAN	An electronic mail system (e-mail) that allows you to send messages to and receive them from other users via the computer. It is part of VISTA.
MENU	A list that includes the names of options from which you can select an activity.
MENU SYSTEM	The overall Menu Manager logic as it functions within the Kernel framework.
MENU TEXT	The descriptive words that appear when a list of option choices is displayed. Specifically, the Menu Text field of the OPTION file (#19). For example, User’s Toolbox is the menu text of the XUSERTOOLS option. The option’s synonym is TBOX.
MLTF	MASTER LABORATORY TEST file (#66.3).
MUMPS	Abbreviated as M. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) computer language used by VA FileMan and throughout VISTA. The acronym MUMPS stands for M assachusetts G eneral H ospital U tility M ulti P rogramming S ystem.
NAME FIELD	The one field that <i>must</i> be present for every file and file entry. It is also called the .01 field. At a file’s creation the .01 field is given the label NAME. This label can be changed.
NAMESPACE	A convention for naming VistA package elements. The Database Administrator (DBA) assigns unique character strings for package developers to use in naming routines, options, and other package elements so that packages may coexist. The DBA also assigns a separate range of file numbers to each package.
NAVIGATION	Navigation meanings: Switching your reference point from one file to another. Moving your cursor around a terminal display or a document using cursor keys and other commands.

Term	Definition
NODE	In a tree structure, a point at which subordinate items of data originate. An M array element is characterized by a name and a unique subscript. Thus the terms: node, array element, and subscripted variable are synonymous. In a global array, each node might have specific fields or “pieces” reserved for data attributes such as name.
NON-CANONIC NUMBER	A number with either leading zeroes or trailing zeroes after a decimal point. M treats non-canonic numbers as text instead of as numbers.
NON-NULL	A value other than null. A space and zero are non-null values.
NTRT	New Term Rapid Turnaround (NTRT). The process to distribute standard reference files to VistA environments.
NULL	Empty. A field or variable that has no value associated with it is null.
NULL RESPONSE	When replying to a prompt, pressing only the Enter key, abbreviated as <Enter> , to enter nothing.
NUMERIC EXPRESSION	An expression whose value is a number. Compare to string expression.
NUMERIC FIELD	Response that is limited to a restricted number of digits. It can be dollar valued or a decimal figure of specified precision.
OED	Office of Enterprise Development
OI&T	Office of Information Technology
OIFO	Office of Information Field Office.
OPERATOR	One of the processes done to the elements in an expression to create a value.
OPTION	A computing activity that you can select, usually a choice from a menu.
OPTION NAME	Name field in the OPTION file (e.g., XUMAINT for the option that has the menu text “Menu Management”). Options are namespaced according to VistA conventions monitored by the DBA.
PACKAGE (SOFTWARE)	The set of programs, files, documentation, help prompts, and installation procedures required for a given application (e.g., Laboratory, Pharmacy, and PIMS). A VistA software environment is composed of elements specified via the PACKAGE file (#9.4). Elements include files, associated templates, namespaced routines, and namespaced file entries from the OPTION, HELP FRAME, BULLETIN, and FUNCTION files. As public domain software, VistA software can be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
PATTERN MATCH	In M, an operator that compares the contents of a variable or literal to a specified pattern of characters or kinds of characters.
POINTER TO A FILE	A DATA TYPE field value that contains an explicit reference to an entry in a file. POINTER TO A FILE-type fields are used to relate files to each other.
POPUP PAGE	In ScreenMan, a page that overlays the regular ScreenMan screen in order to present the contents of a selected Multiple.
PREFERRED EDITOR	The editor always entered when you access a WORD-PROCESSING-type field; your default editor. Kernel <i>must</i> be present to establish a Preferred Editor.
PRIMARY KEY	A Data Base Management System construct, where one or more fields uniquely define a record (entry) in a file (table). The fields are required to be populated for

Term	Definition
	every record on the file, and are unique, in combination, for every record on the file.
PRIMARY MENU	The list of options presented at sign-on. Each user <i>must</i> have a primary menu in order to sign-on and reach Menu Manager. Users are given primary menus by Information Resource Management (IRM). This menu should include most of the computing activities the user needs.
PRINT TEMPLATE	The stored specifications of a printed report, including fields to be printed and formatting instructions.
PRIVATE INTEGRATION AGREEMENT	Where only a single application is granted permission to use an attribute/function of another VistA package. These IAs are granted for special cases, transitional problems between versions, and release coordination. A Private IA is also created by the requesting package based on their examination of the custodian package's features. Example: one package distributes a patch from another package to ensure smooth installation.
PROMPT	A question or message from the computer requiring your response.
RECORD	A set of data pertaining to a single entity in a file; an entry in a file.
RECORD NUMBER	See Internal Entry Number.
RELATIONAL NAVIGATION	Changing your current (or primary) file reference to another file. Relational navigation is accomplished by using the extended pointer syntax without specifying a field in the referenced file.
REQUIRED FIELD	A field that <i>cannot</i> be left null for an entry.
REVERSE VIDEO	The reversal of light and dark in the display of selected characters on a video screen. For example, if text is normally displayed as black letters on a white background, reverse video presents the text as white letters on a black background or vice versa.
ROUTINE	Program or a sequence of instructions called by a program that may have some general or frequent use. M routines are groups of program lines, which are saved, loaded, and called as a single unit via a specific name.
SAC	Standards and Conventions. Through a process of quality assurance, all VistA software is reviewed with respect to SAC guidelines as set forth by the Standards and Conventions Committee (SACC).
SACC	VistA's Standards and Conventions Committee. This Committee is responsible for maintaining the SAC.
SCATTERGRAM	A graph in which occurrences of two fields are displayed on an X-Y coordinate grid to aid in data analysis.
SCREEN EDITOR	VA FileMan's Screen-oriented text editor. It can be used to enter data into any WORD-PROCESSING field using full-screen editing instead of line-by-line editing. See Line Editor.
SCREENMAN	The set of routines that supports Screen-oriented data editing and data display.
SCREENMAN FORMS	Screen-oriented display of fields, for editing or simply for reading. VA FileMan's Screen Manager is used to create forms that are stored in the FORM file (#.403) and exported with a software application. Forms are composed of blocks (stored in the BLOCK file [#.404]) and can be regular, full screen pages or smaller, "popup" pages.

Term	Definition
SCREEN-ORIENTED	A computer interface in which you see many lines of data at a time and in which you can move your cursor around the display screen using screen navigation commands. Compare to Scrolling Mode.
SCROLLING MODE	The presentation of the interactive dialogue one line at a time. Compare to Screen-oriented.
SEARCH TEMPLATE	The saved results of a search operation. Usually, the actual entries found are stored in addition to the criteria used to select those entries.
SECURITY KEY	The purpose of Security Keys is to set a layer of protection on the range of computing capabilities available with a particular software package. The availability of options is based on the level of system access granted to each user.
SENSITIVE PATIENT	Patient whose record contains certain information, which may be deemed sensitive by a facility, such as political figures, employees, patients with a particular eligibility or medical condition. If a shared patient is flagged as sensitive at one of the treating sites, a bulletin is sent to the DG SENSITIVITY mail group at each subscribing site telling where, when, and by whom the flag was set. Each site can then review whether the circumstances meet the local criteria for sensitivity flagging.
SEPG	Software Engineering Process Group (SEPG) (renamed the Engineering Process Group [EPG])
SERVER	The computer where the data and the Business Rules reside. It makes resources available to client workstations on the network. In VistA, it is an entry in the OPTION file (#19). An automated mail protocol that is activated by sending a message to a server at another location with the "S.server" syntax. A server's activity is specified in the OPTION file (#19) and can be the running of a routine or the placement of data into a file.
SET OF CODES	A DATA TYPE field value where a short character string is defined to represent a longer value.
SIMPLE EXTENDED POINTERS	An extended pointer that uses a pre-existing pointer relationship to access entries in another file.
SITE MANGER/IRM CHIEF	At each site, the individual who is responsible for managing computer systems, installing and maintaining new modules, and serving as a liaison to the CIO Field Offices.
SOFTWARE (PACKAGE)	The set of programs, files, documentation, help prompts, and installation procedures required for a given application (e.g., Laboratory, Pharmacy, and PIMS). A VistA software environment is composed of elements specified via the PACKAGE file (#9.4). Elements include files, associated templates, namespaced routines, and namespaced file entries from the OPTION, HELP FRAME, BULLETIN, and FUNCTION files. As public domain software, VistA software can be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
SORT	To place items in order, often in alphabetical or numeric sequence.
SORT TEMPLATE	The stored record of sort specifications. It contains sorting order as well as restrictions on the selection of entries. Used to prepare entries for printing.
SPACEBAR RETURN	You can answer a VA FileMan prompt by pressing the spacebar and then the Return key. This indicates to VA FileMan that you would like the last response you were working on at that prompt recalled.

Term	Definition
SPECIAL QUEUING	Option attribute indicating that Task Manager should automatically run the option whenever the system reboots.
STUFF	To place values directly into a field, usually with no user interaction.
SUBENTRY	An entry in a Multiple; also called a Subrecord.
SUBFIELD	A field in a Multiple.
SUBFILE	The data structure of a Multiple. In many respects, a Subfile has the same characteristics as a File.
SUBSCRIPT	A symbol that is associated with the name of a set to identify a particular subset or element. In M, a numeric or string value that: is enclosed in parentheses, is appended to the name of a local or global variable, and identifies a specific node within an array.
SUPPORTED REFERENCE INTEGRATION AGREEMENT	This applies where any VistA application may use the attributes/functions defined by the IA (these are also called "Public "). An example is an IA that describes a standard API such as DIE or VADPT. The package that creates/maintains the Supported Reference <i>must</i> ensure it is recorded as a Supported Reference in the IA database. There is no need for other VistA packages to request an IA to use these references; they are open to all by default.
TASK MANAGER	Kernel module that schedules and processes background tasks (also called TaskMan)
TEMPLATE	Means of storing report formats, data entry formats, and sorted entry sequences. A template is a permanent place to store selected fields for use at a later time. Edit sequences are stored in the INPUT TEMPLATE file (#.402), print specifications are stored in the PRINT TEMPLATE file (#.4), and search or sort specifications are stored in the SORT TEMPLATE file (#.401).
TERMINAL EMULATION	Using one kind of terminal or computer display to mimic another kind. Often used with PC remote communication applications.
TERMINAL TYPE	The designation of the kind of computer peripheral being used (e.g., the kind of video display or printer). Full terminal type functionality is supplied by Kernel.
TRIGGER	A type of VA FileMan cross-reference. Often used to update values in the database given certain conditions (as specified in the trigger logic). For example, whenever an entry is made in a file, a trigger could automatically enter the current date into another field holding the creation date.
TRUTH TEST	An evaluation of an expression yielding a true or false result. In M, usually a 1 (true) or a 0 (false) is returned from a truth test.
UCI	User Class Identification, a computing area. The MGR UCI is typically the Manager's account, while VAH or ROU may be Production accounts.
UP-ARROW	The ^ character (caret); used in VA FileMan for exiting an option or canceling a response. Also used in combination with a field name or prompt to jump to the specified field or prompt.
UPLOAD	Send a file from one computer system to another (usually using communications software).

Term	Definition
USER ACCESS	This term is used to refer to a limited level of access, to a computer system, which is sufficient for using/operating a package, but does <i>not</i> allow programming, modification to data dictionaries, or other operations that require programmer access. Any option, for example, can be locked with the key XUPROGMODE, which means that invoking that option requires programmer access. The user's access level determines the degree of computer use and the types of computer programs available. The System Manager assigns the user an access level.
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
VA FILEMAN	VistA's Database Management System (DBMS). The central component that defines the way standard VistA files are structured and manipulated.
VAMC	Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
VARIABLE	Character (or group of characters) that refers to a value. M (previously referred to as MUMPS) recognizes 3 types of variables: local variables, global variables, and special variables. Local variables exist in a partition of main memory and disappear at sign-off. A global variable is stored on disk, potentially available to any user. Global variables usually exist as parts of global arrays. The term "global" may refer either to a global variable or a global array. A special variable is defined by systems operations (e.g., \$TEST).
VERIFY CODE	The Kernel's Sign-on/Security system uses the Verify code to validate the user's identity. This is an additional security precaution used in conjunction with the Access code. Verify codes shall be at least eight characters in length and contain three of the following four kinds of characters: Letters (lowercase) Letters (uppercase) Numbers Characters that are neither letters nor numbers (e.g., "#", "@" or "\$"). If entered incorrectly, the system does <i>not</i> allow the user to access the computer. To protect the user, both codes are invisible on the terminal screen.
VHA	Veterans Health Administration.
VISN	Veterans Integrated Service Network
VistA	The Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), within the Department of Veterans Affairs, is the component of the Veterans Health Administration that develops software and installs, maintains, and updates compatible computer systems in VA medical facilities. (Previously known as the Decentralized Hospital Computer Program [DHCP].)
VPID	Veterans Administration Personal Identifier.
VUID	The VA unique identifier.
WAN	Wide Area Network.

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